

By Bruce
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Peace Corps and the CIA

The Journal is to be complimented on its recent editorial condemning the efforts of Senator Pell to censor, from the record of a public hearing, the fact that the Peace Corps has employed a former CIA agent in the organization. Such an attempt at censorship can only be deplored by anyone who wishes freedom of information on the activities of our governmental agencies.

From its inception the Peace Corps was careful not to employ anyone who had any connection with an intelligence-gathering agency. The CIA was also not to employ a former Peace Corps volunteer for five years following the volunteer's termination. Unfortunately Joseph Blatchford, the current director, has cast this rule to the winds in his steadily increasing efforts to Nixonize the Peace Corps, and make it even more ineffectual than it

already is. I continue to believe that the sooner the Peace Corps is disbanded as an organization, the better it will be for all.

It is fortunate that there are some people in Congress who are intensely interested in protecting the public's right to know, and put an end to the rampant nonsense of secret, censored and classified information that the public should be aware of. Sen. Mike Gravel of Alaska is one of these men who has gone out on a limb to keep the public informed. It is unfortunate that Sen. Pell is not a man of similar character, and similar sense of duty to the electorate. Hopefully the Pells, Blatchfords and others who try to censor will continue to be exposed in their shady efforts to deprive the public of its information.

Bruce Murray

Newport